

Senate Bill No. 565

Passed the Senate September 6, 2007

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly September 4, 2007

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2007, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add Section 1011.5 to the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 565, Wiggins. Veterans' Home of California: hospital and health services administrator.

Existing law provides for the establishment and operation of the Veterans' Home of California at various sites for aged and disabled veterans who meet certain eligibility requirements.

This bill would require, at the Veterans' Home of California, Yountville, a hospital and health services administrator, as specified, who would be responsible for specified medical and health services.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The California Department of Veterans Affairs is charged with the responsibility of providing nursing care to eligible veterans residing in the state who desire to receive care in a state veterans' home.

(b) Founded in 1884, the Veterans' Home of California at Yountville (Yountville Veterans Home) is the largest veterans' home in the United States, where approximately 1,200 veterans live on its 550 acres as a community unto itself.

(c) The Yountville Veterans' Home offers residential care capacity and three levels of inpatient health care, including intermediate care, skilled nursing care, and general acute care, and was the first facility of its kind in the state to provide this type of care for veterans and their spouses.

(d) The Yountville Veterans' Home has an acute care facility with 26 beds, a skilled nursing care facility with 230 beds, an intermediate care facility with 177 beds, a domiciliary care facility with 730 beds, and residential care facilities with 130 beds, and is

the only veterans' home in California with an emergency room, pharmacy, and an Alzheimer's and dementia unit.

(e) The Yountville Veterans' Home has a medical director and a nursing director, but there is nobody dedicated solely to administering and coordinating the medical care and medical personnel for all of the facilities on the property.

(f) The Yountville Veterans' Home is licensed as an acute care hospital and has an attached skilled nursing facility, whereas most commercial and private skilled nursing facilities are stand-alone facilities that are not connected to, or a part of, an acute care hospital.

(g) The newly constructed Alzheimer's and dementia unit, that is opening July 11, 2007, at the Yountville Veterans' Home, will ultimately serve 75 patients and was specifically designed to address the unique needs of Alzheimer's and dementia patients.

SEC. 2. Section 1011.5 is added to the Military and Veterans Code, to read:

1011.5. (a) There shall be a hospital and health services administrator located at the Veterans' Home of California, Yountville, who shall possess both of the following qualifications:

(1) A master's degree in health services administration, public administration, or business administration.

(2) Experience in hospital or health services administration.

(b) The hospital and health services administrator shall be responsible for all of the following:

(1) The overall management of health services centers.

(2) The organization, direction, and coordination of medical and health services in the hospital, pharmacy, outpatient clinic, skilled nursing facility, and Alzheimer's unit.

(c) The hospital and health services administrator shall report to the administrator for the Veterans' Home of California, Yountville.

Approved _____, 2007

Governor